

(e) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Allocation of coal from nearby coal mines

3043. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Gujarat is getting coal for power generation from coalfield located far away, with the result the freight cost of coal is higher than the actual cost of the coal;

(b) whether Government are considering to allocate coal from the nearby coal mines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Since the State of Gujarat is far away from the coal bearing States, in some cases, the cost of freight in transportation of coal becomes higher than the coal price. However, efforts are made by the Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term), an inter-ministerial committee comprising of Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Railways and representatives of coal companies, to allocate coal to various power utilities, keeping in view, *inter-alia*, their proximity from the coalfields, coal availability, grade of coal as per the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) norms and transport logistics involved. Coal allocation accordingly to power stations in Gujarat is made, to the extent possible, from South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), Chhattisgarh and Western Coalfields Limited, Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Illegal coal mining in different coalfields

†3044. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the incidents of illegal mining are taking place in different coalfields in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.